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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. Patent Application of:

BIERMANN et al. )  
Serial No.: To Be Assigned )  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith )  
For: METHOD FOR VISUALLY )  
DISPLAYING THE MAINTAINING )  
OF SPECIFIED EFFECTS )

Charlotte, North Carolina, April 13, 2006

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of this application, the applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendments.

Amendments to the Specification begin at page 2.

Amendments to the claims begin at page 7.

Remarks by the applicant begin at page 9.